

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method [[,]] of sending a user message through a transmission network, comprising the steps of:

activating a request to set up a call channel;

placing a user message in a spare field of a signaling message for setting up the call channel, said signaling message including a parameter to indicate the presence of said spare field; and then

performing a signaling stage ~~comprising~~ including sending said signaling message; and

terminating the ~~setting~~ set up of the call channel once the user message has been communicated.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the user message is stored in a dedicated memory of ~~the~~ a receiver of the user message.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 2, wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the user is authorized to access the dedicated memory by means of ~~specific~~ commands.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a dedicated memory is in a mobile telephone used as a modem, and the transmission network is a mobile telephone network.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a dedicated memory is in an ISDN-type modem and an ISDN is used as the transmission network.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the size of~~ the user message is limited to 35 eight-bit bytes at maximum.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the user message is communicated in an enciphered form.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A transceiver device, intended for use in transmitting a user message to a called party and for receiving a reply to the user message from the called party, said device comprising:

a dedicated memory;

one or more of the user message and the reply to the user message stored in the dedicated memory; and

a processor adapted to form a signaling message so as to include the user message in a spare field;

wherein the processor is adapted also to send the signaling message during a call set-up operation of a signaling stage.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A device according to claim 8, wherein the capacity of the dedicated memory is no more than 35 bytes.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method [[,]] of sending a user message through a transmission network, comprising the steps of:

activating a request to set up a call channel;

placing a user message in a spare field of a signaling message for setting up the call channel, said signaling message including a parameter to indicate the presence of said spare field; ~~and then~~

performing a signaling stage comprising sending said signaling message; and

terminating the setting up of the call channel once a reply to the user message has been received.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein the reply to the user message is stored in a dedicated memory of ~~the~~ a receiver of the user message.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 11, wherein a user is authorized to access the dedicated memory by means of ~~specific~~ commands.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein:

~~the~~ a dedicated memory is in a mobile telephone used as a modem; and

the transmission network is a mobile telephone network.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ a dedicated memory is in an ISDN-type modem and an ISDN is used as the transmission network.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein ~~the size of~~ the user message is limited to 35 eight-bit bytes at maximum.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 10, wherein the user message is communicated in an enciphered form.